Bank's Group	March 2001	March 2002	March 2003	November 2003
Public Sector Banks	4.00–10.50	4.25–8.75	4.00–7.00	3.75–6.00
Private Sector Banks	5.00–11.50	5.00–10.00	3.50–8.00	3.00–8.00
Foreign Banks	4.25–10.75	4.25–10.00	3.00–8.50	3.00–8.00

(d) Reduction of deposit rate is unlikely to have an adverse impact over the deposit growth within the banking system as it is broadly consistent with the decline in inflation rate and nominal interest rate in the economy. In fact, the aggregate deposit of the banking system grew by 14.6 per cent in 2001-02, 16.1 per cent in 2002-03 and 8.6 per cent in 2003-04 (up to October 2003) despite reduction in deposit rates.

(e) and (f) The information is given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix 200, Annexure No. 1]

Paradeep Oil Refinery projects

69. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government still have the proposal to implement Paradeep Oil Refinery in Orissa; if so, what is the total budget, time frame and why the proposal has not been implemented, although the Prime Minister laid the project foundation;

(b) whether the so-called dispute with the State Government has been settled and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether it is a fact that instead of Paradeep Oil Refinery, now Government are intending for only a pipeline and storage for crude oil in Paradeep?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) have proposed to implement the Paradeep refinery project at an estimated cost of Rs. 7500 crore with the completion scheduled in the later half of 11th Five Year Plan. The project has been delayed due to several factors including subsequent withdrawal of M/s Kuwait Petroleum Corporation from the Joint Venture, withdrawal of the originally granted tax incentives by Orissa Government and change in demand/supply position on an all India basis.

(b) Orissa Government have indicated their willingness to consider restoration of original concessions relating to Orissa Sales Tax and exemption of entry tax on crude oil.

(c) No, Sir. In the first stage of implementation for the Refinery Project, an SPM system, with pipelines and Crude Oil Terminal at Paradeep is proposed.

Privatisation for retailing sector of IOC

70. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to privatize the retailing infrastructure of IOC;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore;

(c) whether privatizing the retail outlets of IOC would cause the company losing its position as a profit making PSU; and

(d) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (d) While considering the judgement of the Supreme Court dated 16-9-2003 on HPCL & BPCL, the Government have decided to pursue the following three options simultaneously :

(i) to seek appropriate legal remedies;

(ii) to enact an appropriate legislation by building consensus; and

(iii) to explore the executive option of disinvesting the marketing arm of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited.

Option (iii) is still under preliminary stage of consideration and Government is yet to reach any final decision with regard to this option or its modalities.

Revision in prices of LPG and Kerosene

71. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided not to execute any hike in the retail prices of LPG and kerosene and postpone the proposed phasing out of subsidy on the two fuels by two years;

(b) if so, the reasons for taking such decision; and

(c) the quantum of loss Government are likely to incur as a result thereof?